

RENTON CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

April 22, 2002
Monday, 6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers
Renton City Hall

MINUTES

**COUNCILMEMBERS
PRESENT**

TONI NELSON, Council President; RANDY CORMAN; DON PERSSON;
KING PARKER; TERRI BRIERE; KATHY KEOLKER-WHEELER; DAN
CLAWSON.

**CITY STAFF IN
ATTENDANCE**

ZANETTA FONTES, Assistant City Attorney; BONNIE WALTON, City
Clerk; JAY COVINGTON, Chief Administrative Officer; JIM SHEPHERD,
Community Services Administrator; LESLIE BETLACH, Parks Director;
SYLVIA ALLEN, Recreation Director; DENNIS CULP, Facilities Director;
VICTORIA RUNKLE, Finance & Information Services Administrator; PAUL
KUSAKABE, Fiscal Services Director; SUE CARLSON, Economic
Development Director; ALEX PIETSCH, Economic Development Director;
DEREK TODD, Assistant to the CAO.

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Nelson called the Renton City Council Committee of the
Whole meeting to order for the purpose of discussing the subject of the year-end
fund balance use. Ms. Nelson explained that this is a unique situation and
audience comment is not normally allowed at Committee of the Whole meetings.
She announced that audience comment would be taken at the beginning of the
meeting with Council discussion to follow.

CORRESPONDENCE

Citizen Comment: Clawson –
Year-End Fund Balance Use

At the request of Councilman Corman an electronic letter was read into the
record from Councilman Clawson, which he sent to Councilmembers Keolker-
Wheeler, Persson and Briere, regarding the proposed outdoor pool. In his letter,
Mr. Clawson stated that the City should consider constructing a pool that can be
used year round, possibly with a retractable roof.

AUDIENCE COMMENT

Citizen Comment: Evans –
Year-End Fund Balance Use

Ralph Evans, 3306 NE 11th Pl., Renton, 98056, suggested that the fund balance
be used to pay down the City's bonded indebtedness, and perhaps some of the
surplus money could be used towards the Veterans Memorial.

Citizen Comment: Richter –
Year-End Fund Balance Use

Marge Richter, 300 Meadow Ave. N., Renton, 98055, suggested that the surplus
funds be used, first, to fund the Veterans Memorial, and then the rest be spent on
the swimming pool.

Citizen Comment: Taylor –
Year-End Fund Balance Use

Ted Taylor, 1104 Shelton Ave. NE, Renton, 98056, encouraged Council to use
the surplus funds on the Veterans Memorial Park.

Citizen Comment: Petersen –
Year-End Fund Balance Use

Inez Petersen, 3306 Lake Washington Blvd. N., #2, Renton, 98056, stated that
the City should not go forward with building a pool without further study. She
recommended that Council seriously consider supporting a pool that can be used
all year long.

Citizen Comment: Darst –
Year-End Fund Balance Use

Pat Darst, 2601 Edmonds Ave. NE, Renton, 98056, urged Council to use the
City's excess funds on the Veterans Memorial.

Citizen Comment: Goltiani –
Year-End Fund Balance Use

Debra Goltiani, 811 Jones Ave. S., Renton, 98055, stated that building a
swimming pool would be an excellent use for the surplus funds.

Citizen Comment: Fakharzadeh – Year-End Fund Balance Use	Amir Fakharzadeh, 1003 N. 5th St., Renton, 98055, urged Council to use the excess funds to build an outdoor swimming pool and name it after former Community Services Administrator, Sam Chastain. He also stated his support for the demolition of the Pavilion Building and suggested constructing something else in its place that would benefit Renton.
Citizen Comment: Slaney – Year-End Fund Balance Use	John Slaney, 23519 SE 282nd Pl., Maple Valley, 98038, stated that he is a former resident of Renton and a current City of Renton employee. He expressed his support for using the fund balance on the Veterans Memorial.
Citizen Comment: Thibodeaux – Year-End Fund Balance Use	Aimee Thibodeaux, 1000 High Ave. S., Renton, 98055, stated her support for using the fund balance on a covered swimming pool.
Citizen Comment: Burns – Year-End Fund Balance Use	Cynthia Burns, 2007 NE 12th St., Renton, 98056, stated that the excess funds should be used to fund the Veterans Memorial Park.
Citizen Comment: Thomas – Year-End Fund Balance Use	Charles Thomas, 4408 NE 11th St., Renton, 98059, suggested that the excess funds be used for essential services such as police and fire department staffing.
Citizen Comment: Allard – Year-End Fund Balance Use	Paul Allard, 2221 SE 8th Pl., Renton, 98055, suggested that the City's fund balance be used to fund a swimming pool.
COUNCIL DISCUSSION Finance: Year-End Fund Balance Use	<p>Councilman Parker detailed the reasons why the City has a year-end fund balance. He explained that the City has a policy to maintain an 8% "rainy day" reserve, and that amount is not included in the year-end fund balance. Pointing out that the excess funds represent one-time monies, Mr. Parker stressed that there are no assurances that the City will have any surplus funds next year. Mr. Parker stated his belief that the money should be returned to the community in the form of services such as a swimming pool, a Veterans Memorial and an improved Pavilion Building.</p> <p>Economic Development Administrator Sue Carlson introduced Arlan Collins, a consultant with CollinsWoerman (an architectural firm). Mr. Collins presented a report on the potential use and configuration of the Pavilion Building site. Pointing out that the costs are the same regardless if the building is torn down or remodeled, Mr. Collins reviewed four proposed uses for the Pavilion Building site. Two of the schemes entail tearing down the building and two entail remodeling the existing building. The cost of the proposed schemes ranged from \$1.9 to \$4 million.</p> <p>Responding to Council inquiry regarding the ongoing costs for the Pavilion Building, Ms. Carlson stated that she believes that at some point in the future there will be a retail market for the space. Unlike a previous proposal which recommended converting the building into a "sophisticated" conference center, the current proposals are more flexible so that the space could be used for a variety of situations.</p> <p>Councilman Corman stated that he favors going forward this year with the Veterans Memorial Park, the swimming pool, and doing some work on the Pavilion Building. He explained that since the City aggressively staffs its Economic Development Department, the City has experienced significant economic growth, and the combination of economic growth and a conservative Budget resulted in excess funds. Stating that the City has studied the swimming pool issue in depth, Mr. Corman expressed his support for the swimming pool as proposed. He pointed out that this can be viewed as a</p>

restoration back to the community of a facility that Renton traditionally has had. Mr. Corman also commented on Police Department staffing, and noted that the City is going to add seven police staff members this year.

Mr. Clawson questioned the number of additional police staff members. He stated that Council and the public do not have enough information at this point to make an informed decision regarding the use of the excess funds. Mr. Clawson expressed concern that the City's revenues are in decline while its costs inevitably keep on increasing. Recommending that the City wait until July before making a decision, Mr. Clawson explained that by that time, more information will be available about the City's economic status and citizens will have had more time to express their opinions about how to use the fund balance.

Responding to Councilman Persson's questions, Finance & Information Services Administrator Victoria Runkle reviewed a summary of City fund balances.

ADJOURNMENT

Council President Nelson closed the Committee of the Whole meeting. Council discussion regarding the year-end fund balance was continued to the Council meeting of 4/22/2002 under Old Business. Time: 7:25 p.m.



BONNIE I. WALTON, City Clerk

Recorder: Michele Neumann
April 22, 2002